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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, MX, ICFTU
SUBJECT: KIRSTEN REPORTS ON ICFTU TALKS WITH AFL-CIO CONCERNING ORIT

REF: MEXICO 7088 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY OTTO KIRSTEN RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON HIGHLY PLEASED WITH HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MEANY AND OTHER AFL-CIO OFFICIALS.HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTED JAUERGUI TO RESIGN AS ORIT GENERAL SECRETARY AS A RESULT OF THE MEETING. THIS WOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE AFL-CIO PER CAPITA TAX PAYMENTS TO ORIT AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY IN KIRSTEN'S VIEW, ASSURE THE PRESENCE OF THE AFL-CIO IN THE ICFTU'S REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY MAIER INFORMED US THAT JAUERGUI HAS REFUSED TO RESIGN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 19, KIRSTEN TOLD THE MISSIONLABOR ATTACHE AND VISITING LABATTS POLLAK AND CONDON THAT THE MEETING WITH MEANY, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED BY THE AFL-CIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING
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THE ORIT PROBLEM, WAS MOST CONSTRUCTIVE. AGREEMENT HAD BEEN

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REACHED ON RESOLVING HE ISSUE BY ASKING JAUERGUI TO RESIGN.
(ICFTU PRESIDENT DONALD MCDONALD WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE
MEETING.) KIRSTEN SAID THAT JAUERGUI'S FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY
OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME FULLY JUSTIFIED THE SUSPENSION OF
PAYMENTS BY THE AFL-CIO. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE REQUEST
FOR JAUERGUI'S RESIGNATION WAS UNAVOIDABLE.MEANY, HE SAID, HAD
CORRECTLY POINTED OUT THAT JAUERGUI'S INEFFICIENT PRACTICES COULD
NOT BE TOLERATED BY THE ICFTU OR ANY OTHER RESPONSIBLE UNION
ORGANIZATION.

3. KIRSTEN SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS IN WASHINGTON HE TELEPHONED
MEXICO'S CTM GENERAL SECRETARY FIDEL VELASQUEZ WHO AGREED THAT
JAUERQUI SHOULD BE ASKED TO RESIGN. KIRSTEN DID SO, HE SAID,
IN ORDER TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT JAUERGUI WAS BEING
REMOVED SOLELY BY THE "GRINGOS." KIRSTEN SAID THAT JAUERGUI
MAY BE OFFERED A POSITION WITH AIFLO.

4. ON SEPTEMBER 20, HERIBERT MAIER TOLD THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE
THAT AN INCENSED JAUERGUI HAD REFUSED TO RESIGN AND IS CONTEMPLATING
CONVOCATION OF A SPECIAL ORIT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING FOR THE
PURPOSE OF COUNTERMANDING THE JOINT AFL-CIO AND ICFTU DECISION.
IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MAIER (SEE REFTEL) JAUERGUI
BITTERLY ACCUSED THE ICFTU OF SUCCUMBING TO AFL-CIO "FINANCIAL
BLACKMAIL." MAIER SAID THAT HE ADVISED JAUERGUI TO TALK WITH
FIDEL VELASQUEZ BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION.

5. MAIER AGREES WITH KIRSTEN AND THE AFL-CIO ONTHE NECESSITY
OF JAUERGUI'S REMOVAL AS A REQUISITE FOR PUTTING THE ORIT HOUSE
IN ORDER. HOWEVER, HE FEELS IN RETROSPECT THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE DECISION WOULD HAVE BEEN FACILITATED BY PERSONAL DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN KIRSTEN AND VELASQUEZ IN JAUERGUI'S PRESENCE OR PERHAPS
BY CONVENING A SPECIAL ORIT CONGRESS. THE LATTER HE SAID WOULD
HAVE PROVIDED THE ADDED ADVANTAGE OF CHOOSING JAUERGUI'S SUCCESSOR
AFTER DISPENSING WITH THE THORNY PROBLEM OF HIS RESIGNATION WITHIN
DEMOCRATIC NORMS.

6. MAIER SAID THAT KIRSTEN TALKED WITH VELASQUEZ BY TELEPHONE
BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE DECISION WAS MADE ON ASKING FOR JAUERGUI'S
RESIGNATION BUT THAT JAUERGUI WAS ADVISED OF THE DECISION BY
AFL-CIO INTERAMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW MCLELLAN. THIS
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APPARENTLY INFURIATED JAUERGUI WHO HAS MADE NO SECRET OF HIS
DEEP-ROOTED AND HIGHLY PERSONALIZED DIFFERENCES WITH MCLELLAN
SPANNING MANY YEARS.

7. COMMENT: DIRSTEN SAID THE ORIT QUESTION WAS THE ONLY MATTER
DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING WITH MEANY AND THAT HE WAS GRATIFIED
THAT THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON HOW TO RESOLVE
THIS ISSUE. IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS HOWEVER THAT THE OPPORTUNITY

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TO MEET WITH MEANY AND HIS AFL-CIO ASSOCIATES WAS IN ITSELF AS
SIGNIFICANT TO KIRSTEN AS THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ORIT ISSUE.
KIRSTEN IS A PRAGMATIC TRADE UNION LEADER AND HIS APPRECIATION
OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS MEETING WITH THE AFL-CIO IS LOGICAL
IN REAL POLITICAL TERMS. HIS UNDERSTANDING OF HIS LATIN AMERICAN
BROTHERS HOWEVER DOES NOT APPEAR PROFOUND AND THE POSSIBILITY
OF SOME MISINTERPRETATION OF THE VELASQUEX AGREEMENT ON JAUERGUI'S
RESIGNATION SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT DESPITE THE MEXICAN LEADER'S
REPORTED DISENCHANTMENT WITH JAUERGUI'S CONDUCT OF ORIT AFFAIRS.

8. JAUERGUI'S REACTION IN RUFUSING TO RESIGN IS NOT SURPRISING.
HIS PRIDE, WHICH IN LATIN AMERICAN TERMS IS SYNONYMOUS WITH HONOR,
HAS BEEN DEALT A SHOCKING BLOW. IN ALL PROBABILITY JAUERGUI'S
RESENTMENT IS EXACERBATED BY ALMOST CERTAIN REFLECTION ON HIS
WILLINGNESS THROUGH THE YEARS OFTEN TO DOVETAIL ORIT ACTIONS
WITH UNPOPULAR AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL POLICY POSITIONS AFFECTING
LATIN AMERICA. ORIT SUPPORT OF AFL-CIO INITIATIVES IN THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IS A CASE IN POINT. GREENWLAD

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